

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claim 4 has been amended to clarify that the base is formed of a elastic thin sheet as previously recited in (currently amended) claim 7. In addition, independent claim 4 has been amended to clarify that the base of the disposable wig is non-customized, as supported by the disclosure in paragraph [0029] on page 5 of the originally filed specification, which refers to "anyone" wearing the wig. In this connection, moreover, it is respectfully pointed out that as shown in Fig. 1 of the present application, the base (1) of the wig of the present invention is of a planar and two dimensional form, and is not of a three-dimensional user-customized form.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 4-11 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of USP 4,456,019 ("Finamore"), and claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious

in view of combination of Finamore and US 2001/0037813 ("Ra").

These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4, a disposable wig is provided which comprises a non-customized base formed of an elastic thin sheet having a thickness on the order of microns (μ). As recited in independent claim 4, the disposable wig further comprises hair segments implanted onto the base and having root portions protruding from an underside of the base, and an adhesive layer formed on an entirety of the underside of the base with a uniform thickness, wherein the adhesive layer comprises: (i) projected portions which engage the root portions of the implanted hair segments protruding from the underside of the base, and (ii) remaining portions. The disposable wig of independent claim 4 is characterized in that the projected portions of the adhesive layer become reversed and are raised toward a surface side of the base when the wig is fitted onto a human skin, and that the uniform thickness of the adhesive layer is in a range of up to about 20 times greater than the thickness of the base.

With the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4, since the thickness of the base is on the order of microns (μ), an advantageous effect is produced whereby the wig of the claimed present invention is better

applicable than conventional wigs to a skin area where a thick base (as of the cited prior art references) is not applicable. That is, an advantageous effect is produced whereby the wig of the claimed present invention is better applicable to areas where compatibility to the skin is prioritized, for example, eyebrows, or mustache. See the disclosure in paragraph [0034] on page 7 of the originally filed specification.

In addition, with the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4, when the wig is fitted onto a substantially flat surface of a human skin (for example, the scalp), the projected portions at the underside of the base become substantially flat due to planar contact of the entire underside of the base (through the adhesive layer) with the flat surface of the scalp. As a result, the projected portions appear at the top surface of the base. Accordingly, the projected portions that appear at the top surface of the base and that engage the root portions of the implanted hair segments are raised when compared with the remaining (recessed) portions on the top surface. And when the top surface of the base becomes rugged with the projected portions and the remaining portions upon fitting of the wig, another advantageous effect is achieved whereby light that hits the base is irregularly reflected so that the base will not glisten and the wig is hard to distinguish from

true hair. See Fig. 3 and the disclosure in paragraphs [0013] and [0014] on page 2 of the originally filed specification.

Still further, with the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4, due to the projected portions becoming reversed and raised toward the top surface of the base, a reversal phenomenon is produced wherein the underside of the adhesive layer having the downward projected portions becomes flat and the top surface of the base becomes rugged with the upward projected portions. As a result, the root portions of the implanted hair segments are urged by the scalp through the thin adhesive layer toward the top surface side of the base, thereby producing still another advantageous effect of reinforcing the fixing of the implanted hair segments and preventing the implanted hair segments from being removed from the base. See the disclosure in paragraph [0015] on page 3 of the originally filed specification.

Yet still further, since, as recited in amended independent claim 4, the thickness of the adhesive layer is in a range of up to about 20 times greater than the thickness of the base, and since, as recited in claim 5, the projected portions of the adhesive layer have a height of about 80 microns, it becomes possible to achieve the structure of the adhesive layer with the projected portions and the remaining portions whereby the projected portions can become reversed and raised toward the top

surface side of the base. With this structure, the tensile strength of the base increases with increased thickness of the base, whereas compatibility of the base to skin increases with reduced thickness of the base. Accordingly, when applied to a skin area such as an eyebrow, eyelash or mustache that requires compatibility rather than tensile strength, a wig with a thin base can be provided. In addition, with respect to the ratios between the thickness B of the adhesive layer and the thickness A of the base, for example, when applied to a sudoresis or a skin area of greater sebum secretion, a wig having a greater B/A ratio can be provided so that the adhesive layer can absorb sweat and sebum. By contrast, when applied to a skin area at which own hair is to be grown, a wig having a smaller B/A ratio can be provided to prevent interruption of growth of real hair. Therefore, with the structure of the claimed present invention, yet another advantageous effect is produced whereby different B/A ratios may be selectively used depending upon the skin area and the conditions to which the wig is applied. See the disclosure in paragraphs [0033] and [0034] on pages 6 and 7 of the originally filed specification.

It is respectfully submitted that even if Finamore and Ra were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such a combination would still not achieve or render obvious the above

described features and advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4.

First, it is respectfully submitted that neither Finamore nor Ra disclose or suggest that the wig thereof is disposable as according to the wig of the claimed present invention. Finamore merely discloses a custom-shaped hairpiece made for repeated use by a specific user. And Ra merely discloses a hair extension which is secured with the natural hair of the user.

In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that Finamore discloses that the sheet member (12) of the hairpiece (10) thereof is custom-shaped to fit the exact configuration of an area of a specific user's head to be covered. By contrast, the base of the disposable wig of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4 is non-customized. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the hairpiece (10) of Finamore does not correspond to the non-customized, disposable wig of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4.

Still further, it is respectfully pointed out that the base of the disposable wig of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4 is elastic. According to the present invention, hair segments cannot be appropriately implanted unless the base is elastic. Therefore, with the elastic base of the claimed present invention, the hair segments are appropriately implanted by extending (stretching) the elastic base to be in an

extended state during implantation, and after the implantation ends, releasing the extended state of the elastic base. Also, since the elastic base of the claimed present invention is made of a contractile material, yet another advantageous effect is produced whereby the contractility (shrinking) makes the root portions of the implanted hair segments hard to distinguish. See the disclosure in paragraph [0028] on page 5 of the originally filed specification.

By contrast, the sheet member (12) of the hairpiece (10) of Finamore is merely made of a thermo-setting plastic film (or a polyester-based thermoplastic polyurethane film). See column 2, lines 27-30 of Finamore. And although the sheet member (12) of Finamore has some elongation, the thickness of the sheet member (12) of the hairpiece (10) of Finamore is of millimeter order. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the sheet member (12) of Finamore is not elastic in the manner of the base of the claimed present invention. And it is respectfully submitted that the sheet member (12) of Finamore does not achieve or render obvious the advantageous effect produced by the elastic base of the claimed present invention whereby the contractility (or shrinking) of the base makes the root portions of the implanted hair segments hard to distinguish.

Yet still further, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4, the adhesive layer is

formed on an entirety of the underside of the base with a uniform thickness with which projected portions and remaining portions appear, wherein the projected portions engage the root portions of the implanted hair segments protruding from the underside of the base, and wherein the projected portions become reversed and are raised toward a surface side of the base when the wig is fitted onto human skin. The Examiner asserts the Fig. 6 and column 3, lines 65-70 of Finamore disclose the above features of the claimed present invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Fig. 6 and column 3, lines 65-70 of Finamore merely disclose a process of making wigs, and Fig. 8 of Finamore (which might also be considered relevant) merely discloses a final product. However, it is respectfully submitted that Finamore does not disclose, teach or suggest an adhesive layer which is formed on an entirety of the underside of the base with a uniform thickness with which projected portions and remaining portions appear, wherein the projected portions engage the root portions of the implanted hair segments protruding from the underside of the base, and wherein the projected portions become reversed and are raised toward a surface side of the base when the wig is fitted onto a human skin. And it is also respectfully submitted that Finamore does not achieve the advantageous effect of the claimed present invention whereby the base does not glisten due to irregularly reflected light making the wig hard to distinguish

from true hair, or the advantageous effect of the fixing of the implanted hair segments being reinforced resulting in preventing the implanted hair segments from being removed from the base.

Finally, it is respectfully pointed out that according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4, the elastic base of the disposable wig has a thickness on the order of microns (μ). By contrast, the sheet member (12) of Finamore has a thickness of the order of millimeters (see claim 2 of Finamore.) When a (relatively) thick base like the sheet member (12) of Finamore is attached to human skin, borders between the base and human skin become evident to touch and sight. That is, when the structure of the base including the adhesive layer formed on the underside of the base is formed to be (micron order) thin as according to the claimed present invention, a remarkable level of difference is achieved whereby the wig can be better applied than conventional wigs to a skin area where a thick base (as of the cited prior art references) is not applicable and where compatibility to the skin is prioritized, for example, for eyebrows, or mustache. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the wig of Finamore is not usable for applications where compatibility to skin is prioritized, for example, eyebrows or mustache.

Ra, moreover, has been merely cited with respect to the subject matter of dependent claims 12 and 13, and it is

respectfully submitted that even if Finamore and Ra were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such a combination would still does not achieve or render obvious the above described claimed structural features and advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4.

With respect to the dependent claims, as recited in claim 9, the base is formed as substantially a flat sheet. According to the Examiner on page 2 of the Final Office Action, Finamore, in Fig. 6 thereof, discloses that the sheet member (12) is formed as substantially a flat sheet. However, Fig. 6 is merely a partial/sectional view of the sheet member (12) of Finamore. And it is respectfully pointed out that as is clearly shown in Fig. 2 thereof, the sheet member (12) of Finamore is clearly not formed as substantially a flat sheet as according to the base of claim 9 of the present invention.

As recited in dependent claim 14, when the base is fitted onto human skin, the base is deformed into a substantially rugged sheet. According to the Examiner on page 3 of the Final Office Action, Finamore, in Fig. 6 thereof, discloses that the sheet member (12) is deformed into a substantially rugged sheet when fitted onto human skin. However, as clearly shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 5-8 of Finamore, the sheet member (12) is not deformed into a substantially rugged sheet. Indeed, since the thickness of the

sheet member (12) is of millimeter order (see claim 2 of Finamore) in contrast with the micron order thickness of the elastic base of the claimed present invention, it is respectfully submitted that the sheet member (12) of Finamore is not capable being deformed into a substantially rugged sheet as according to the elastic base of claim 14 of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4, and claims 5-17 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art references, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 103.

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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